

BILL WRIGHT

December 8, 1982

Warranty
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We went to the Monocle.

He said the 102" truck width was something Mark got seized of. "He really got his teeth into that one."

Bill says he got the 102" idea from Jacqueline of Base Cascade. He says that it's not particularly a North Dakota issue. But it will be good for raising money the next time around.

He says the warranty idea grew out of a hearing where Mark asked an innocent question and then seized upon the opening that developed. He was on Today Show Tuesday morning.

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"The 102" truck width is a little esoteric. It will bring in a lot of money. But people love the warranty issue. That one can get us reelected. Mark can run as the man who brought common sense to the defense department. That's the kind of issue you can ride back into the Senate. Milton Young was known as Mr. Wheat. He invented the target price idea and some commentator named him Mr. Wheat. The idea is not in fashion now; but it was a hot idea then. He won two elections as Mr. Wheat."

He said that the defense contractors don't mind the warranty idea. They have it on airplane engines.

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He talks about the farm as a precision operation. He says Mark often talks about the "window." There is a window when you have to plant and a window when you have to harvest. This idea of striking at the right time may be one I can give political content to.

The way he moved from the hearing accident to the warranty idea is a typical inductive, Appropriations Committee search process. He's very much an Appropriations Committee person. I think that's a key to Mark's style. See Jim Range's comment. It's disruptive from leadership's standpoint.